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ABSTRACT

South Dakota's state plan for the education of homeless children and youth is presented in compliance with provisions of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The plan is comprised of eight sections. The first section provides a program narrative and presents the following homeless needs as determined by two State surveys: (1) shelter and permanent housing; (2) employment and job skills for parents; (3) food; (4) clothing; (5) transportation; (6) counseling; (7) school supplies; (8) stable family life; (9) medical services; and (10) parent education. The second section states South Dakota's goals for homeless education. The third section describes the following objectives: (1) establish a data gathering process; (2) assure that homeless children and youth have access to public schools; and (3) assure that the residency requirement does not prevent educational access. The fourth section presents activities for the accomplishment of the State's objectives. The fifth section discusses details of the state plan as required under Section 722(e) of the McKinney Act. The sixth section describes a tracking system to be developed and maintained for homeless children and youth. The seventh section summarizes homeless education procedures. The eighth section outlines activities, time periods, and evaluation means for the State's objectives. Appendices include survey results and copies of the survey instruments. (AF)

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SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PLAN

EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: JULY 1, 1989

UD 026 919

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South Dakota State Plan
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Implementation Date July 1, 1989

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SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PLAN

Program Narrative

An Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth was established in accordance with Section 722, subsection (c). This office is located in the Federal Programs area of the Division of Education.

Data was gathered in accordance with Section 722, subsection (d) (1). A survey was sent to each public school district (191 districts) and each Bureau of Indian Affairs school (20 schools). The results were very limited. The homeless coordinator also works with the adult education of the homeless program and was required to complete a needs assessment. A survey was sent to missions, shelters, state agencies, literacy councils and various other service providers. Additional information was obtained regarding South Dakota's homeless children and youth through this second survey. The number of homeless adults identified was 1740 and the number of homeless children and youth identified was 2565. This data was the number an agency served in a year's amount of time. This count does not accurately reflect the number of homeless adults, children and youth that if not living with family members or friends would essentially be without a home or shelter. Through on-site interviews on two reservations, it was indicated that there exists a significant number of homeless by applying the above definition. It is assumed that through time and more public awareness, this data will be obtained.

A copy of Public Law 100-77 Subtitle B - Education for Homeless Children and Youth was sent to each school that had previously received a survey. South Dakota faces an awareness problem. People who do not know or understand the Federal definition of homeless, immediately picture a homeless person as someone who lives on the streets or under bridges. They are quick to express that they do not have any homeless in their community. Through this program, the awareness and information of South Dakota's homeless will grow, thus, improving the data and information base on the homeless. Also as the awareness grows; the desire and planning to meet the homeless population's needs grows.

Results from the surveys indicated the following needs of maintaining homeless children and youth in school:

shelter, permanent housing
employment, job skills for the adults
food
clothing
transportation
counseling, self-esteem, coping with being stigmatized by others
school supplies
stable family life
medical needs
educating parents in the importance of an education for their children

GOALS

1. Assure that homeless children and youth in South Dakota have access to a free, appropriate public education and that this access to school is completed in a timely manner.

2. Review South Dakota's residency requirement of its compulsory school attendance laws and revise as necessary to assure that homeless children and youth have access to a free, appropriate education.

OBJECTIVES

I. To establish a data gathering process

   A. To provide information that will increase public awareness of the definition of homeless and the needs of homeless children and youth.

   B. To continue the data gathering process to identify the number, needs and location of homeless children and youth in South Dakota.

   C. To continue to identify and address problems as they may develop concerning the denial of homeless children and youth's access to school.

   D. To identify the problems in identifying and providing the special educational needs of homeless children and youth.

   E. To coordinate with the other service providers to serve the total needs of the homeless child, youth, and parent. (Utilize services available in the community).

II. To assure that homeless children and youth have access to public schools

   A. To establish procedures recommended for LEAs to use to insure that enrollment occurs in a timely manner.

   B. To provide inservice training and information to school personnel to provide awareness of the needs of the homeless children and youth.

   C. To research the resources that are available for LEAs to consult with for appropriate school clothing needs, school supplies and materials, and transportation for homeless children and youth.

III. To assure that the residency requirement does not prevent homeless children and youth's access to an education

   A. To review and revise South Dakota's residency requirement as necessary. The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth has submitted a proposal to request the Legislative Interim Committee to review the possible discrepancies of the law.

Activities for Objectives

I. A. Inservice training will be held for various South Dakota state agencies and service providers. Brochures will be developed and disseminated throughout the state to all agencies which may have initial contact with the homeless. Information will be provided to these agencies on the definition of homeless and the procedures for school enrollment of the homeless children and youth. Also the issue will be addressed through existing organizations such as the Governor's Youth at Risk Task Force, CHAP, meetings of school districts superintendents, etc. This will be an on-going task. The material which will be presented needs to be developed as well as a list of all the appropriate committees, associations and organizations to present this to.

B. Through the growing awareness of the homeless population in South Dakota, it is assumed that the annual survey will develop into an accurate data gathering tool and will be completed on an annual basis. As the tracking system is developed and utilized, it will also serve as a data gathering tool. Until the tracking system is implemented, public schools are not a sufficient source for data gathering and other agencies and service providers will be continued to be contacted.

C. Additional needs of the homeless children and youth will surface as the awareness of homeless grows. The Homeless Children and Youth Advisory Committee will remain available for consultation with the state coordinator to address these problems and research possible solutions. (Once the state tracking system is utilized, problem areas will be more identifiable.)

D. The local educational agency's counselor is the recommended person responsible for identifying the special educational needs of the homeless children and youth and referring them to the appropriate school service providers. Again, the tracking system may eventually assist here, as the special needs of each homeless child and youth and prior certification (such as Special Education, Chapter 1) will be entered on the computer.

E. Through the local educational agency's counselor, local service providers, brochures, etc., information will be available to coordinate with other agencies to meet the needs of the student and adults/parents. It is recommended that the school counselor assist the homeless parents in obtaining assistance form other community service providers.

II. A. It is recommended that the LEAs insure that enrollments of homeless children and youth occur in a timely manner. It is also recommended that the homeless child or youth be allowed to attend school on the date or day the child or youth requests attendance. If the student

appears without a birth certificate, he may attend school for thirty days while the certificate is being located. If the child or youth does not have a immunization record, the appropriate school official will attempt to locate one by calling the previous school which the child attended.

B. It is recommended that the LEA school counselor provide inservice training to the teachers and other school personnel so the homeless child and youth is not stigmatized by others. School personnel will then be aware of the needs of the homeless child and youth and will be able to deal effectively with the comments and reactions from classmates. (The school counselor may wish to have a staff person from a shelter speak to his school personnel as an inservice to achieve information on homeless families' world.)

C. South Dakota's LEAs do not necessarily have funds available for providing homeless children and youth with appropriate school clothing, school supplies and materials, and transportation. It is recommended that this be addressed at the LEA level with SEA assistance in researching as necessary. Suggested funding sources: state, federal, local. LEAs may want to research private corporations grant availabilities. An effort should be made so that these needs do not prevent homeless children and youth's access to school.

III. Residency Requirement

A. The SEA will research the state residency school requirement for possible noncompliance with Public Law 100-77. The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth has submitted a proposal to request the Legislative Interim Committee to review the possible discrepancies of the law. The SEA encourages the LEA to allow the homeless child or youth to attend school regardless of a possible discrepancy of the law.

SEC. 722(e) State Plan

(1) The Local Educational Agency will be authorized to make determinations required under Section 722(e) of the Act. It is recommended that the LEA consult and coordinate with the homeless adult/parent, youth, social worker, and/or other concerned parties in making the decisions. The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth is available for consultation to assist LEAs. When requested or as necessary, the State Superintendent of Elementary and Secondary Education has the authority to make school assignments. The student assignment request form is the mechanism to utilize for this. The responsibility will remain with the LEAs to assure that the best interest of the child or youth is kept in mind and that deference is given to the parents.

(2) The procedures for the resolution of disputes regarding educational placement will be addressed at the Local Educational Agency level. LEAs may choose to use similar procedures as may be in effect now for grievances. The school administrator and/or school counselor will be responsible for informing the homeless youth or parents of their rights, as normally happens with any enrollment. The homeless youth or the parents of the homeless child may feel comfortable with a shelter representative in attendance with them for protection of their rights. The LEA shall utilize what resources it has available to resolve the disputes at this level. If disputes are not resolved at the LEA level, the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth is available for consultation with the homeless youth, parents and the LEA. If the Homeless parent or adult has a dispute regarding which school district the child should attend and is not satisfied with the LEA's resolution, the homeless person may contact the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The Coordinator will research the options available to the homeless child or youth and contact the LEA for their input of the situation. If the dispute cannot be resolved at this point and the child either is not attending school or attending the school that is not the individual's choice, a student assignment form may then be submitted to the Superintendent of Elementary and Secondary Education. This form allows the Superintendent to assign school residency and the decision shall be based upon consideration of equality of educational facilities, the wishes of the resident taxpayers of the district, the best interests of all the students in the district and the best interests of the child being assigned.

(3)(a) The LEA will determine which is in the homeless child's or youth's best interest, continuing his/her education in the school of origin for the remainder of the year or enroll the child or youth in the district in which she or he is actually living. It is recommended that if a special need was met at the school of origin and can not be met at the school where she/he is residing, the appropriate school official should attempt to arrange transportation for child to the school of origin, if the distance is within reason.

(b) The choice of school placement will be made in the best interest of the child or youth and regardless of whether the child is living with or without the parents. This is a responsibility of the LEA.

(c) The LEA will be responsible for providing to the homeless child or youth services comparable to services offered other students. Resources to meet other needs with, such as appropriate school clothing, school supplies and transportation have not been identified at this time. The homeless child or youth should receive the same opportunities to receive school services as the other students. It is recommended that the school counselor monitor this.

(d) The LEA will maintain appropriate school records and will submit necessary information to the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth for the tracking system. As the tracking system develops, the appropriate school official may contact the Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth when a homeless child or youth enters a new school system and receive the necessary enrollment information. Otherwise, it is necessary that school records be maintained the same for the homeless student as any other student.

The State Educational agency urges the Local Educational Agency to give deference to the wishes of the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth and also give deference to the wishes of the homeless youth.

Tracking System

The Office of Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children and Youth will develop and maintain a tracking system for the homeless children and youth. When a homeless child or youth enters a school system, the school counselor will provide the state coordinator with the following information which in turn will be entered on a computer system:

Birth Certificate
Immunization Record
Academic Progress
Social Security Number
Special Health Needs
Outside Contact Person, address, telephone number
Areas of prior certification- Chapter 1, Special Education
Last School Attended, Address, Dates of Attendance
Legal Guardian, Address, telephone number
Current Address

If the child terminates enrollment at the school, the school counselor will notify the State Coordinator with last date of attendance. The next school that the child enrolls at, will then be able to call the State Coordinator for enrollment information. This will assist the schools with the enrollment of homeless children and youth, making access to school easier for them. Also we will be able to tell more accurately how many homeless children and youth are actually attending school. This will take a period of time to develop and implement.

Why a tracking system?

This tracking system will also serve as a means of evaluating the homeless program. For the system to be effective will require extensive dissemination of information regarding the homeless and cooperation of the LEAs and shelters. South Dakota's homeless population appears to be very transient and the tracking system should assist the LEAs with quick, easy access to enrollment information which in turn will assist the student with easier access to school.

Through time, the data accumulated through this system should reflect the number of homeless children attending school versus the number of homeless not attending school, thus showing the progress made. To make this tracking system effective will require coordinated effort.

Procedures

South Dakota codified law requires that any pupil entering school shall, prior to admission, be required to present to the appropriate school authorities certification from a licensed physician that he has received required immunizations. If the homeless child or youth wishes to enroll and attend school, but does not have an immunization record with him, the appropriate school official will contact the last school that the child attended, obtain verification that the records will be sent promptly. If the previously attended school does not have the immunization record, the school official may wish to contact the county health nurse of last place of residence. If these sources do not locate the record, the school official may contact the State Department of Health. But, exhaust other sources FIRST, prior to contacting the state Department of Health. The Department of Health does maintain records of immunizations for South Dakota residents and they have contacts to obtain records from other states. If you request records from the Department of Health, you need to provide the following information: the year the child first attended school and the name and address of the school which he/she attended.

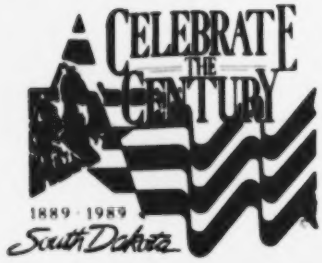
Objective	Activity	Time Period	Evaluation
I. Establish a data gathering process A. Identifying homeless children and youth as homeless B. Number and location of homeless children and youth C. Identify problems which deny homeless children and youth access to school D. Identify the problems in identifying and providing special educational services E. Coordinate with other service providers	* Awareness through meetings, inservice training sessions, brochures * Annual survey, tracking system * Annual survey, tracking system, contacts with shelter providers * Tracking system, contacts from service providers, schools * Provide schools with list of service providers in their community	April 1989 thru April 1990	Analysis of survey and tracking system data
II. Assure homeless children's access to South Dakota's schools A. Enrollment difficulties and requirements B. Stigmatization of homeless children and youth C. Special problems (school supplies, clothing, transportation)	* SEA and LEA responsibilities and recommended procedures * Inservice at LEA level * Research possible funding sources - local, state, federal	April 1989 thru April 1990	Analysis of data showing the number of school aged homeless children attending and the number not attending school.
III. Review and revise residency requirements	* Refer to Legislative Interim * Committee for possible research if state law not in compliance with federal law	April 1989 thru April 1990	Revision of South Dakota school residency law; if necessary

South Dakota Survey Results
1988

Agency/School	Adult	Children/Youth
Aberdeen United Way, Aberdeen	40	3
Avon School, Avon	0	1
Dept. of Social Services, Bell Fourche	16	20
Dept. of Social Services, Brookings	44	22
Burke School, Burke	0	3
Dept. of Social Services, Chamberlain	5	0
Dept. of Social Services,Custer	4	2
Dept. of Social Services, Deadwood	8	0
Dell Rapids School, Dell Rapids	0	3
Community Food Pantry, Dell Rapids	2	0
Dept. of Social Services, Elk Point	15	6
Grant-Deuel School, Revillo	0	1
Job Service, Hot Springs	1	0
Hill City School, Hill City	1	2
Westview Motel, Huron	32	5
Dept. of Social Services, Lake Andes	4	0
Andes Central School, Lake Andes	0	2
N. W. Career Learning Center, Lemmon	2	0
Dept. of Social Services, Martin	10	0
Job Service, Milbank	1	0
Dept. of Social Services, Mission	25	0
Dept. of Social Services, Mitchell	3	3
Dept. of Social Services, Mobridge	10	1
S. D. Opportunities, Pierre	147	264
Dept. of Social Services, Pine Ridge	41	13

Agency/School	Adult	Children/Youth
Dept. of Social Services, Rapid City	800	1600
Shannon County School, Batesland	0	74
Children's Inn, Sioux Falls	203	337
N. E. S. D. Community Action Office	195	55
Spearfish School, Spearfish	0	6
Northern Hills Career Learning Center, Spearfish	1	0
Dept. of Social Services, Sturgis	12	16
Job Service, Vermillion	1	0
Salvation Army, Watertown	45	20
Dept. of Social Services, Winner	4	0
Winner School, Winner	0	1
Wood School, Wood	0	5
Women's Center/Shelter, Yankton	68	100
Total:	1740	2565

*To avoid duplication, when more than one survey was received from a community, only the survey reporting the highest number of homeless was used. This data also does not reflect adequately the people who if not with family or friends would essentially be without home or shelter.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TO: South Dakota Agencies/Shelters

FROM: Carol Ruen, Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children, Youth, Adults; Division of Education

RE: Homeless Adult Survey/Needs Assessment

1. The number of homeless adults served by your program/agency during the last:
   _____ 3 months _____ 6 months _____ 1 year

2. The number of homeless youth and children (16 years old and under) served by your program/agency during the last:
   _____ 3 months _____ 6 months _____ 1 year

3. What is the approximate geographic area for the population which your program/agency serves? _____
   _____
   _____

4. Estimate average length of time homeless stay at shelter?
   _____ family _____ single parent _____ single (male/female)

5. Indicate the needs of the identified homeless served by your agency/program. Please prioritize starting with #1 being the greatest need.

_____ Education	_____ Food	_____ Shelter
_____ Transportation	_____ Permanent Address	_____ Medical Services
_____ Employment Opportunities	_____ Tutoring	_____ Counseling
_____ Other _____	_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____

6. What would you identify as priority needs of the homeless adult regarding education? (Example: Literacy training, basic skills remediation, etc.)
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

Office of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education
Division of Education, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2293 (605) 773-3423

7. What are the needs of homeless families to maintain their children's attendance in school? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. What service(s) does your agency provide? (Example: Food, clothing, employment counseling, medical, housing, follow-along, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

9. Approximate number or percentage of ethnic backgrounds of homeless adults you served during the last year.

_____ American Indian or Alaskan Native

_____ Asian or Pacific Islander

_____ Black, not of Hispanic Origin

_____ Hispanic

_____ White, not of Hispanic Origin

10. For the last year, approximate number of homeless served in each age group.

_____ 16-24

_____ 25-44

_____ 45-59

_____ 60 and older

11. Indicate average educational level of homeless population you served during the last year.

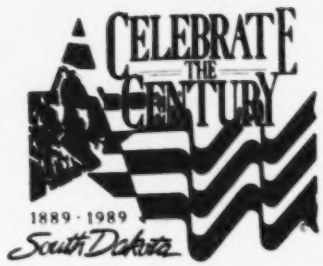
_____ 0-8th Grade

_____ 9th-12th Grade

_____ 12th plus

_____ GED

_____ High School Diploma



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

TO: South Dakota Service Providers

FROM: Carol Ruen, Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children, Youth and Adults, Division of Education

DATE: September 28, 1988

RE: Needs Assessment of Homeless Adults in South Dakota

The Division of Education has established an office for a Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children, Youth and Adults. I wish to introduce myself as the Coordinator of this office. This office was established through the Department of Education under the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Two grants were received, one will involve literacy and basic remediation skills training with the homeless adults, and the other grant will involve education of the homeless children and youth.

For your perusal, "homeless" is defined as an individual who (1) lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

The first requirement of the Homeless Adult section is to determine the needs, location and population of the adult homeless in South Dakota. Information received from you through the enclosed assessment will be helpful and appreciated. Eventually literacy and basic remediation skills training will be available to homeless adults, through the use of grant funds. If you are aware of someone else who may also have information regarding the homeless, please let me know, and I will contact them.

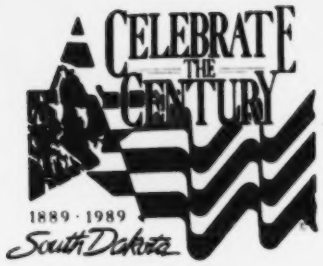
If you have any questions, you can contact me at (605)773-4437.

Thank you.

Enclosure

ADHOMLES.LTR\WPC\EC2

Office of Instructional Services
Division of Education, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2293 (605) 773-5407



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Homeless Adult Needs Assessment

_____
Agency

1. Estimated number of homeless adults (18 years old and under) served by your program/agency during the last:

   _____ 3 months
   _____ 6 months
   _____ 1 year

2. Approximate number or percentage of ethnic backgrounds of homeless adults you served during the last year.

   _____ American Indian
   _____ Hispanic
   _____ Black
   _____ Asian
   _____ White

3. For the last year, approximate number of homeless served in each age group.

   _____ 16-24
   _____ 25-44
   _____ 45-59
   _____ 60 and older

4. If known, indicate average educational level of homeless population you served during the last year.

   _____ 0-8th Grade
   _____ 9th-12th Grade
   _____ 12th plus
   _____ GED
   _____ High School Diploma

5. Estimated number of homeless youth and children (16 years old and under) served by your program/agency during the last:

   _____ 3 months
   _____ 6 months
   _____ 1 year

6. If applicable, <u>estimate</u> average length of time homeless stay at shelter?

   _____ family
   _____ single parent
   _____ single

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-OVER-

Office of Instructional Services
Division of Education, 700 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2293 (605) 773-5407

7. Indicate the needs of the identified homeless served by your agency/program. Please prioritize starting with #1 being the greatest need.

_____ Education	_____ Permanent Address
_____ Food	_____ Tutoring
_____ Shelter	_____ Medical Services
_____ Transportation	_____ Counseling
_____ Employment Opportunities	_____ Other _____

8. What is the approximate geographic area for the population which your program/agency serves? _____

9. What would you identify as priority needs of the homeless adult regarding education? (Example: Literacy training, basic skills remediation, money management, job/employment skills, banking/checking, etc.)

10. What are the needs of homeless families to maintain their children's attendance in school? _____

11. What service(s) does your agency provide? (Example: Food, clothing, employment counseling, medical, housing, follow-along, etc.)

Please return by October 12, 1988 to:

Carol Ruen
Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children, Youth and Adult
Division of Education
Kneip Office Building
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

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